



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

CITY OF EVANSVILLE
Integrated Overflow Control Plan
SRF # WW11 22 82 07

Date: May 20, 2011

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the city's Integrated Overflow Control Plan's Preliminary Engineering Report received by the SRF on May 2, 2011 will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
317-232-8623; mhensche at ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Evansville Water & Sewer Utility
Integrated Overflow Control Plan**
1 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 104
Evansville, IN 47740-001

SRF Project Number: WW11 22 82 07

Authorized Representative: James Garrard, Interim Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

No construction will take place with this project. The planning project proposes various studies and tasks, including stress testing both the Eastside and Westside wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and conducting sewer studies throughout the city's collection system.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The scope of this project includes system characterization, capacity assessment, facilities planning, and the development of the IOCP.

The Utility entered into a consent decree with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Justice and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in February 2011 on a plan to develop remedial measures for sewer system overflows.

The agreement with IDEM and federal regulators requires that the Utility develop an Integrated Overflow Control Plan (IOCP), an overall capital improvements plan (CIP) that integrates the Utility's combined sewer overflow (CSO) – Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) with a Sanitary Sewer Remedial Measures Plan (SSRMP). The SSRMP will contain a prioritized set of projects to identify recurring capacity-related sewer overflows and system defects that could cause or contribute to overflows; the LTCP will be developed to meet requirements of the CSO Policy and to reduce the frequency and duration of overflows from the combined sewer system.

In this proposed project the Utility will fully develop the CSO-LTCP and SSRMP and submit the resulting final IOCP to state and federal agencies by November 30, 2012. The IOCP will identify specific infrastructure projects, including sustainable/green projects, which the Utility will be required to construct over the next 20 years to reduce overflows from the city's sanitary and combined sewer systems.

There are no feasible alternatives to the proposed action. The “No-Action” alternative was rejected, since the Utility would not be in compliance with the requirements of its consent decree.

Studies and investigations, as well as performing engineering and planning-related tasks to develop the IOCP include: system characterization and modeling and data gathering; public participation; and final development of the IOCP in concert with state and federal regulators. System characterization and modeling includes: completing and updating the Stream Reach Characterization and Evaluation Report for Pigeon Creek and the Ohio River; performing trunk sewer condition assessments and sanitary sewer evaluation studies on approximately 20 percent of the sanitary sewers; developing and calibrating hydraulic models for eleven of the major sanitary sewers system (SSS) basins; revising and updating the combined sewer system (CSS) hydraulic models and integrating them with the SSS hydraulic models; completing a system-wide capacity assessment using the integrated CSS/SSS hydraulic models; and conducting sewer studies, as well as stress testing the Eastside and Westside wastewater treatment plants. Public participation will involve the Citizens Advisory Committee, which will be engaged throughout the IOCP planning phase to provide comments on alternatives. Final IOCP development includes: updating the Utility’s Financial Capability Analysis; developing CSO control measures and SSS remedial measures in performing the IOCP analysis of alternatives; developing the Post-Construction Monitoring Program; developing the integrated LTCP/SSRMP CIP; and working with state and federal regulators to produce the final IOCP.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

The estimated cost of the IOCP development is \$3,800,000. Evansville will borrow that amount from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a 20-year term at an annual interest rate to be determined at loan closing. The city has adjusted, and will continue to adjust, its rates and charges in order to pay for this project and debt service.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The development of the IOCP will have no physical impact on the environment. Consistent with the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act, the SRF has determined that the proposed undertaking is not a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The proposed IOCP will be discussed at a properly noticed public hearing held at 5:30 p.m. on May 24, 2011 in North Park Branch Library at 960 Koehler Drive.